



Photographs USHA P. DAVALUR

Thirty **children** painted a mural on the wall of the U.S. Consulate in Chennai to welcome hundreds of visa applicants arriving for their interviews. The children received a helping hand from U.S. Consul General Andrew Simkin (above) after artist **Thota Tharrani** (right) designed the mural and painted its outlines. The event was part of a two-day children's festival organized by the NalandaWay Foundation in January. All children came from situations where they had been trafficked, forced into child labor or were vulnerable to these evils. <http://www.thotatharrani.in/>



AJIT KUMAR

The U.S. Embassy's minister counselor for public affairs and SPAN publisher, Larry Schwartz (left), gave the 2008 reprint of ***Crossing Over: Partition Literature from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh*** to author Khushwant Singh at his home in New Delhi in January. The 2007 book, edited by Frank Stewart and Sukrita Paul Kumar, is a collection of short stories from the 1947 partition of India, many never translated before. The U.S. State Department funded the reprinting. <http://americanlibrary.in.library.net/>

Pitchers **Rinku Singh** (left) and **Dinesh Patel**, both from Uttar Pradesh, are the first Indians to sign professional contracts with an American baseball team. The deals were finalized in November with the Pittsburgh Pirates, a five-time World Series championship team based in Pennsylvania. Patel and Singh are joining the team for spring training in Florida. <http://pittsburgh.pirates.mlb.com>

# NEWS SCAPE

The **Indian Navy** has signed a \$2.2 billion deal with **Boeing** for eight highly sophisticated P-8I aircraft, marking the first direct military sale to India by the Seattle, Washington-based company. The planes are to be delivered in phases from 2012. The multi-mission aircraft, fitted with onboard electronic surveillance, intelligence and attack systems, are expected to fill the long-felt void in India's capability to tackle seaborne threats. <http://www.boeing.com/>



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THE BOEING COMPANY

**Anya Bernstein** is a PhD candidate in anthropology from New York University and a documentary filmmaker researching trends in Asian Buddhism. Shown (right) with Buryat nun Ani Tenzin, one of her ethnographic consultants from Siberia, at a pilgrimage site in Himachal Pradesh, Bernstein was in India for about nine months as a Fulbright scholar at the Drepung Gomang Monastery near the town of Mundgod in Karnataka. [www.usief.org.in/](http://www.usief.org.in/)



Courtesy Anya Bernstein